

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 18, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 2, 15, 16 and 20 have been amended to place the subject matter in clear condition for allowance. No new matter has been added, and no new issues are raised which require further consideration and/or search. Claims 8-10 have been cancelled. Claims 22-25 have been added. Claims 1-7 and 11-25 are submitted for consideration.

The Office Action states that the IDS filed on April 24, 2000, fails to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP 609 because the Examiner has been unable to find the IDS. Pair indicates that the PTO has received the IDS. Therefore, if the Examiner does not have a copy of the IDS, it is apparent that the IDS has been misplaced by the PTO. We enclose a copy of the post card associated with IDS filed on April 24, 2000 and a courtesy copy of the IDS and the references cited in the IDS.

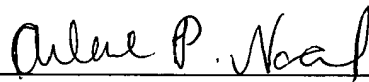
The Office Action indicated that claims 1 and 20 would be allowable if the elements of claims 8-10, 15-16, 19 and 17, and/or 18-19 are incorporated in those claims. Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to incorporate the elements of claims 8-10. New claims 22 is provided as an independent form of claim 14. New claim 23 incorporates the elements of claims 15 and 16. New claim 24 incorporates the elements of claims 17 and 19 and new claim 25 incorporates the elements of claims 18-19. Therefore,

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-7 and 11-12 are moot. Applicants respectfully request allowance of all of claims 1-7 and 11-25 and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



Arlene P. Neal
Registration No. 43,828

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

APN:lls

Enclosure: Post card and Information Disclosure Statement filed on 4-24-00